



IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 23-28 without prejudice, as follows.

1. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing upload overloads of data from a plurality of clients at different locations within a network to a common destination server in the network, the steps comprising:

generating a unique identifier corresponding to and dependent on data that each client intends to send to the common destination server, the unique identifier being smaller in size than the data of the client;

separately transmitting the unique identifiers from each client to at least one authenticator trusted by the common destination server, wherein the at least one authenticator is a component of the destination server;

separately time-stamping the unique identifiers as received by the at least one authenticator;

separately sending back to each client a message, digitally signed by the at least one authenticator, with the unique identifier sent by that client and the corresponding time-stamp;

each client then sending its data towards the common destination server; and

the common destination server using the unique identifier for the data provided by each client to confirm that the data provided by each client existed as of the corresponding time-stamp and to insure that the data has been unaltered after the corresponding time-stamp.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the generating of the unique identifier is accomplished by using a one-way hash function on the data of each client.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the sending of data towards the common destination server by each client is accomplished by sending the data to one of a plurality of upload proxy servers.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of: sending a message from each upload proxy server to the common destination server indicating that each upload proxy server is holding data for the common destination server.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 4, further comprising the step of uploading, by the common destination server, the data held for the common destination server at any one or more of the upload proxy servers.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5, wherein prior to the step of generating the unique identifiers, a sponsor anticipating that a plurality of clients will send large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval, performs the steps of:

establishing the at least one authenticator for the anticipated large amounts of data; and

supplying to the at least one authenticator criteria for receiving data from the plurality of clients.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 6, further comprising the step of creating, by the at least one authenticator, an event identifier (EID) corresponding to the anticipated plurality of clients sending large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval and wherein the at least one authenticator publishes the EID before the anticipated plurality of clients have sent large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein prior to the step of generating the unique identifiers, a sponsor anticipating that a plurality of clients will send large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval, performs the steps of:

establishing the at least one authenticator for the anticipated large amounts of data;
and

supplying to the at least one authenticator criteria for receiving data from the plurality of clients.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising the step of creating, by the at least one authenticator, an event identifier (EID) corresponding to the anticipated plurality of clients sending large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval and wherein the at least one authenticator publishes the EID before the anticipated plurality of clients have sent large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 8 wherein the criteria for receiving data includes an encryption level to be used when each client is sending data towards the common destination server.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising the step of: sending a message from each upload proxy server acknowledging receipt of data sent to each upload proxy server by a client.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 3 further comprising the step of the at least one authenticator sending a message to a client containing a designation of at least one upload proxy server for use by the client.

13. (Previously Presented) A method of preventing upload overloads of data from a plurality of clients at different locations within a network to a common destination server in the network, the steps comprising:

generating a unique identifier corresponding to and dependent on data that each client intends to send to the common destination server, the unique identifier being smaller in size than the data of the client;

separately transmitting the unique identifiers from each client to at least one authenticator trusted by the common destination server, wherein the at least one authenticator is a component of the destination server;

separately sending back to each client a message, digitally signed by the at least one authenticator, with the unique identifier sent by that client;

each client then forwarding its data to the common destination server via proxy upload servers remote from the common destination server; and

the common destination server using the unique identifier for the data provided by each client to confirm that the data provided by each client has been unaltered after the generation of the unique identifier.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein the unique identifiers are one-way hashes of the data that the unique identifiers correspond to.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step

of sending a message from each upload proxy server to the common destination server indicating that each upload proxy server is holding data for the common destination server after that upload proxy server has received data from a client.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 15 further comprising the step of uploading data responsive to messages sent indicating that the particular upload proxy server is holding data for the common destination server.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 further comprising the step of separately time-stamping the unique identifiers as received by the at least one authenticator; and wherein the step of separately sending back to each client a message, digitally signed by the at least one authenticator, with the unique identifier sent by that client includes the corresponding time-stamp within the message; and wherein

the common destination server uses the unique identifier for the data provided by each client to confirm that the data provided by each client existed as of the corresponding time-stamp and to insure that the data has been unaltered after the corresponding time-stamp.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 wherein, prior to the step of generating the unique identifiers, a sponsor anticipating that a plurality of clients will send large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a

relatively short time interval, performs the steps of:

establishing the at least one authenticator for the anticipated large amounts of data;

and

supplying to the at least one authenticator criteria for receiving data from the plurality of clients.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 18 further comprising the step of creating, by the at least one authenticator, an event identifier (EID) corresponding to the anticipated plurality of clients sending large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval and wherein the at least one authenticator publishes the EID before the anticipated plurality of clients have sent large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 wherein the criteria for receiving data includes an encryption level to be used when each client is sending data towards the common destination server.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 further comprising the step of separately time-stamping the unique identifiers as received by the at least one authenticator; and wherein the step of separately sending back to each client a message,

digitally signed by the at least one authenticator, with the unique identifier sent by that client includes the corresponding time-stamp within the message; and wherein

the common destination server uses the unique identifier for the data provided by each client to confirm that the data provided by each client existed as of the corresponding time-stamp and to insure that the data has been unaltered after the corresponding time-stamp.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 13 wherein, prior to the step of generating the unique identifiers, a sponsor anticipating that a plurality of clients will send large amounts of different data intended for the common destination server in a relatively short time interval, performs the steps of:

establishing the at least one authenticator for the anticipated large amounts of data; and

supplying to the at least one authenticator criteria for receiving data from the plurality of clients.

23-28. (Cancelled)

29. (Previously Presented) A system for preventing upload overloads of data from a plurality of clients at different locations within a network to a common destination server in the network, comprising:

a common destination server in a network, the common destination server set up to receive data from a plurality of clients:

an ID generator operable to generate a unique identifier corresponding to and dependent on data that each client intends to send to the common destination server, the unique identifier being smaller in size than the data of the client;

each client having a sender for separately transmitting the unique identifier from that client;

at least one authenticator trusted by the common destination server, the at least one authenticator having a time-stamper for separately time-stamping the unique identifiers as received by the at least one authenticator, the at least one authenticator having a sender for separately sending back to each client a message, digitally signed by the at least one authenticator, with the unique identifier sent by that client and the corresponding time-stamp, wherein the at least one authenticator is a component of the destination server; and

wherein the common destination server includes a checker that uses the unique identifier for the data provided by each client to confirm that the data provided by each client existed as of the corresponding time-stamp and to insure that the data has been unaltered after the corresponding time-stamp.

30. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 29 wherein each client is operable to send the data towards the common destination server after receiving the

message from the at least one authenticator.

31. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 30 further comprising a plurality of upload proxy servers operable to receive the data provided by each client and wherein the common destination server is operable to upload data held for the common destination server by the upload proxy servers.

32. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 31 wherein the ID generator takes a one-way hash of the data that the client intends to send to the common destination server.